

*A letter from Katie Panaretto,
President of Bicycle Queensland*

Thanks for being a Bicycle Queensland member. Together, through the efforts of members, volunteers and paid staff, we have built an organisation over the past 40 years which represents the needs of community cycling to all levels of Government. Our influence currently sees annual spending on bicycle infrastructure across the State approaching \$50 million.

The financial contribution you make as a member provides you with direct benefits through insurance, but also contributes to the advocacy and education work that Bicycle Queensland is engaged in every day.

I am writing to inform you of a recent decision of the management committee.

Your management committee is proposing that we change the structure of BQ from an incorporated association to a company limited by guarantee (**CLG**) and will be seeking endorsement of this change at the next Annual General meeting in September 2021.

Why?

A company limited by guarantee (CLG) is a better structure for an organisation of Bicycle Queensland's size and complexity. Simply put, we have outgrown the incorporated association model. As a CLG, Bicycle Queensland will be better able to attract grants and funding. We will work more easily with Government and other funding bodies. A CLG is a more professional, flexible and creditable structure than an incorporated association.

Bicycle Queensland is also working towards becoming a charity, and possibly gaining Deductible Gift Recipient status from the Australian Tax Office.

What does it mean for me as a member?

At first glance, there is no real change for members. The insurance you receive as a member will remain exactly the same. However, the long-term benefit for members is that by embracing this change, we will be equipping Bicycle Queensland to face the operating challenges in these turbulent times!

What will change?

The management committee will become the board of directors, and Bicycle Queensland will report annually to ASIC (the Australian Securities and Investment Commission) and ACNC (the Australian Charities and Non-for-profits Commission), rather than the Queensland Office of Fair Trading.



What will stay the same?

You will still be a member, and the members will still control the organisation, and you will still vote for the office bearers and other board members. Bicycle Queensland's ABN remains unchanged, but the legal entity changes from the incorporated association to the company limited by guarantee.

Thanks again for your support of Bicycle Queensland. This move from an incorporated association to a company limited by guarantee will equip us to be more responsive to members, and extend both the scope and depth of our work in advocacy and education right across this massive State of ours.

Should you wish to get in contact to discuss further, please email project@bq.org.au

Yours in cycling,

Katie